IAMES, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, KING OF England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all people to whome these our Letters Patents shall come, greating. Whereas We doe vnderstand that our Maritime Townes of Donwich, Southwold, and Walberswicke in our County of Suffolke, haue borne the most ancient Coast Townes of our said County, and are scituate vpon the maine Sea opposite to the Low Countries, and the Towne of Dunkirke. And whereas the Inhabitants of the said Townes heretofore exhibited their humble Supplication and Petition vnto Vs, therby declaring the ruine & decay of their ancient Hauen belonging to the said Townes and the inconueniences therby likely to ensue if the same were not spedily repaired, We were graciously pleased to refer the consideration of their humble suit vnto the Lords of our Priuy Counsell, who by their Letters committed the survey of the said Hauen to diuers Knights and Justices of the Peace of our County of Suffolke, which said Knights and Justices by vertue of the said Letters assembled themselues together, and did not onely view the same Hauen in their owne persons, but also calling vnto them diuers Artificers very skilfull & experienced in the faculty of Water workes, enquired & found, that by Pyling, Pearring, Jettying, and other like artificiall workemanship, there might bee made a sufficient Hauen for the arriuing and safegard of Ships, Barkes, Crayes, & Boats, not onely to the benefit of Vs, our Heires & Successors, but to the great releefe of the Inhabitants of the said Townes, and of all Marchants and trauellers saying neere vnto those parts, and to the strength of our said Coast: The accomplishment whereof, as it appeareth by the Certificate of the said Knights and Justices of Peace, will amount vnto the Sum of Sixe Thousand Pounds at the least: whereupon the Lords and others of our Priuy Counsell, seriously weighing how much the reparation of the said ancient Hauen concerned the whole Common wealth of this Realme, referred the Inhabitants of the same Townes for releefe and leuying of so great a Summe, to the late intended Parliament, which being dissolued before remedies of those great inconueniences could be prouided, they remained vnreleeued:

By reason whereof the said Inhabitants of the said Townes were inforced to renew their most humble suit vnto Vs, beseeching Vs to be graciously pleased, to recommend the reparation of the sayd Hauen to the charitable benevolence of all our louing Subiects of our Kingdome of England and Principality of Wales.

And forasmuch, as We are credibly informed, aswell by the humble petition and supplication of our sayd poore subiects the Inhabitants of the said Townes of Donwich, Southwold, and Walberswicke, as also by a Certificate vnder the hands of the most part of the Knights & principall Gentlemen of the said County of Suffolke, whereof diuers & they are Justices of the Peace of the same County, and vnder the hands of the Bayliffes & Burgesses of our Towne of Ipswich in the same County, and also by another Certificate vnder the hands of the Maior & Aldermen of our Towne of Oxford, and of one of the Bayliffes and diuers Inhabitants of our Towne of Aldeburgh and of diuers of the Inhabitants of our Towne of Woodbridge in the said County of Suffolke, and vnder the hands of the Maior and diuers Aldermen of the Towne of Hertford, County of Essex, and also by another Certificate vnder the hands of the Officers of our Ordinance, and by another Certificate vnder the hands and common seale of the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Trinity house of Deptford Strand in the County of Kent: That the said Townes of Donwich, Southwold, and Walberswicke haue of long time been not only very well inhabited with warlike people, & greatly replenished with Fishermen & good Mariners, and other men meete and seruiceable for our Navy, well stored with Ships, Barkes, Crayes, & Boats, but also very meete and conuenient for fishing in the Northerne Seas: By reason whereof, the same Townes haue of long time been by the Inhabitants ther of in ancient times manfully defended against the sundry inuasions and attempts of our Enemies. Our Navy and the Navy of sundry our Noble Progenitors Kings of this Realme, the better appointed by reason of their skilful mariners & cunning seamen, & our Nauy Royall, our Citizens of London, and diuers other Countries of our Realme of England greatly benefited by their fishing.

Inasmuch as the Inhabitants of those Townes in times past haue supplied our Citty of London & other parts of our Realme of England, with Twenty Thousand Pounds worth of fish yearely, besides the competent fish for the prouision of our Howshold, Amounting yearely to a great quantity. And also that our said Townes haue of long time had a very commodious & conuenient Hauen for the safegard of the liues of many Marchants, Trauellers, Fishermen, and Seamen, and for the succour and defence of their Ships, Barkes, Crayes, and Boats, aswell against the great rage & fury of the Sea, being in those parts very dangerous, as also from the Dunkerkers and other Pyrats: And that of late time the said ancient Hauen hath beene and yet is much impayred and decayed, and if it be not spedily repayred, is likely in short time to be vtterly darued vp, and grow irrecouerable, by reason of the Northerne and Northeast winds, and by the violence of the great Tydes which haue driuen the said Hauen to the Southward many Rods, for want of sufficient Pearring & Pyling to stay the same, wherby the said Townes are greatly impouerished, the Trafficke of Marchants resorting thither much diminished, our Customes impayred, the fishing in those parts (by reason of the dangerous landing) lesse vsed, & our people yet lying in those Townes, being about Foure Thousand persons, maintained only by fishing, are like to perish, and our sayd Townes like to be depopulated & become desolate, to the preiudice of our Navy, decrease of Mariners, and to the generall hurt and danger of this our Kingdome & Common wealth: As by the same petitions & Certificates doth appeare.

And whereas We are also credibly giuen to vnderstand, that the said Towne of Southwold is as an Island surrounded with water, which if it should be abandoned, as of likelyhood it will be if the said Hauen be not spedily repaired, it may prooue as dangerous a place vnto this our Realme for any of our enemies to surprize & fortifie against Vs, as any other place in this our Kingdome whatsoeuer.

We considering the premisses & minding to prouide for the preseruation of the liues of our people, the maintenance of our Navy & shipping, the continuance of our Townes, & the defence of our Sea coasts, & of Marchants & trauellers, & for the encrease of fishermen & Mariners, and that the prouision of our Howshold, our Citty of London and Country be not diminished: And taking also into our Princelye consideration, that our said louing Subiects the poore Inhabitants of the said Townes of Donwich, Southwold, and Walberswicke by reason of their late maine losses, Amounting to Thirty Thousand Pounds at the least sustained by casualty of Fire, Pyrats, shipwracke, and especially by meanes of the long decay of the said Hauen, are vtterly vnable of themselues to vndergo the great charge for reparation of the said Hauen, which will amount as is aforesaid to the Sum of Sixe Thousand Pounds at the least, Haue therfore at the humble suit of the said poore Inhabitants of the said Townes of Donwich, Southwold, and Walberswicke, Of our especiall Grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, giuen & granted, and by these our present Letters Patents doe giue & grant (as much as in Vs is) vnto our said subiects the Inhabitants of our said Townes of Donwich, Southwold, and Walberswicke and euery of them, not only full power, licence and authority, to fortifie & repaire the said Hauen, and to dig and cut through a place neere thereunto adioyning called the Sluys, and from thence to cleere the Passage in Dunwich Channell, vnto a place called Hummerstons Cutt by also by Pearring, Pyling, Jettying, and such other artificiall Workemanship, Wayes and meanes, as shall be most fit & conuenient to proceed to the finishing and accomplishing therof, whereunto We doe yeild our Royall consent and assent.

AND for the further ance & better helping forth of the same We commend the same good and laudable intent & purpose to the charitable & liberall deuotion and beneuolence of all & singuler our louing Subiects dwelling within our Realmes of England, *and Principality of* Wales, *that the rather for our recommendation the more bountifull contribution by our said Subiects may bee yeelded to the finishing of the said Hauen, whereby they shall make euident declaration of their forward & willing minds to augment the prosperity of our Realms & Countries.*

And furthermore of our especiall Grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, We haue giuen and granted, and by these our Letters Patents doe giue and grant, full licence, permission and authority, to our faithfull and welbeloued Subiects Iohn Blobold, and Thomas Kempster Bayliffes of our said Towne of Donwich, Thomas Clarke, and Reynold Hoxton Bayliffes of our said Towne of Southwold, and William Coppine, and Henry Browne now, or late Churchwardens of the said Towne of Walberswicke, and to their Successors for the time being, and to euery of them, and to all & euery other person or persons that shall be thereunto deputed & assigned by them by writing vnder the Common seales of the said Townes, to aske, gather, receiue, collect and take of all manner of persons whatsoeuer, aswell Spirituall and Temporall, English-borne, Denizes and strangers in our Citty of London, and in all other Cities, Countries and places aswell within liberties, as without, exempt, or not exempt within our Realme of England, and Principality of Wales, Christian contribution and beneuolence of all our said louing Subiects, that it may or shall please God to moue or stir them to giue, contribute, peice, and pay towards the fortifying and repayring of the said Hauen.

And for the better and more speedy execution of this our Royall pleasure, We doe by these our Letters Patents, will, require and doe expect all our Sheriffes in their seuerall Shires & Counties, All our Justices of Peace in their seuerall Limits & Sessions, And all Maiors, Bayliffes, and all other head Officers within all Cities, Townes corporate, and other Jurisdictions, And also all Parsons, Vicars, Ministres, and Curats of Churches and Parishes, not onely of their owne parts, to be helping with their liberall deuotion toward the said good and laudable Worke, but also to recommend our speciall pleasure, & the furtherance of the repaire of the said Hauen in their seuerall Sessions, Counties, Limits, Cities, Townes, Liberties, Parish Churches, Peniers, or Villages, for the better obtaining of liberall contribution therunto.

And We will & command all and euery the Chiefe Constables of euery Hundred, and all & euery the Justices of Peace, and other head Officers of whatsoeuer where no Chiefe Constable shall be, within this our Realme of England, and Principality of Wales, at such time and times as the said Iohn Blobold and Thomas Kempster, Thomas Clarke, & Reynold Hoxton, William Coppin, and Henry Browne, or their Successors from time to time, or their Deputy or Deputies, authorized by the Common Seales of the foresaid Three Townes, shall come & repaire to you, or any of you, with these our Letters Patents vnder our great Seale of England, That forthwith vpon sight thereof, you receiue and take the Briefes or Copies thereof, and deliuer them or cause to be deliuered, to the Minister or one of the Churchwardens of euery Parish within your seuerall Hundreds, Limits, or bounds, to be published by the Minister of euery such Parish the next Sabboth day after the receipt therof (if with conuenience it may be done) otherwise the next Sabboth day following.

And We will and require you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curats, for the better stirring vp of a charitable deuotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents, or the Briefe therof, within your parish Churches and Chappels, to all our louing Subiects, within the time before prefixed, and that when no other Collection shall be made for any other person, Exhorting & perswading all persons whatsoeuer to extend their liberal contributions in so good & needfull a Worke.

And We require you the Churchwardens of euery Parish where such Collections are to be made (as aforesaid) that you shall immediately after the publishing of these our Letters Patents, or the Copy or Briefe therof, carefully collect & gather from seat to seat, the charitable beneuolence of all our louing subiects aswell strangers as others: and such as at that time are absent from Church, to repaire to their houses for their beneuolence, and to set down in Writing in a paper Booke the name of the Parish, together with the seuerall names of all such persons as shall giue and contribute, and the seuerall sums which euery of them shall so giue in any Towne, Hamlet or Parish, and the totall sum which shal be by you so gathered, to be by the Minister or your selues endorsed on the back-side of the said briefes, vnder your seuerall hands, in words, and not in figures: And the said Briefe so endorsed, and the sum or sums of money so gathered, together with the said paper Booke of the names of the giuers therof, you the Churchwardens of euery Parish aswell in euery Citty, Towne corporate, priuiledged places, or elsewhere, shal returne vnto the Justices of Peace, head Officers, or chiefe Constables of whom you receiued your charge, or to their Successors within Sixe daies after such Collection so made.

And you the said Justices of Peace, head Officers, and chiefe Constables vpon such your receipt, to deliuer the said money, paper Booke, and Briefes to the Clarke of the Peace of the same County at the next Quarter Sessions, and the Clarke of the Peace to deliuer, or cause to be deliuered all such sum and sums of money as shall come to his hands, together with all the paper Bookes of the names of all such as shall giue, and the sums by them giuen & Briefes whereupon each sum hath beene collected, the next Terme following after such his receipt, vnto our trusty and welbeloued Subiects the Master of the company of Fishmongers of London for the time being, William Angell Cittizen and Fishmonger of London, and to Robert Offley Marchant of our foresaid Citty, or to any one of them at the Fishmongers Hall in Thames-street neere London Bridge, who vpon the receipt therof, shall giue vnto the said Clarke of the Peace Sixe pence on the Pound for Portage of the said money, and shall keepe all such sum and sums of money, together with the paper Bookes and Briefes whereupon the money hath been collected, in one Chest in Fishmongers Hall aforesaid, vnder Three seuerall Locks, whereof one Key to remaine with the Master of the said Company of Fishmongers, another Key with the said William Angell, and the Third Key with the said Robert Offley, and that they and euery of them from time to time vpon demand made by the foresaid Bayliffes & Churchwardens of our Townes of Donwich, Southwold, and Walberswicke for the time being, shall pay and deliuer ouer vnto them, or to any Three of them, whereof one to be one of the Bayliffes of Donwich, and another to be one of the Bayliffes of Southwold, and the third to be one of the Churchwardens of Walberswicke, or to their sufficient Deputy or Deputies, to be allowed vnder their common Seales, all such sum and sums of money, together with the said Briefes and paper Bookes as they haue receiued from time to time, taking from the said Bayliffes & Churchwardens or their Deputies an Acquittance for the same.

And further We doe appoint and constitute the foresaid Bayliffes and Churchwardens, and their Successors, to be Surueyors of the said Worke, giuing them, or to any three of them, whereof one to be one of the Bayliffes of Donwich, another to be one of the Bayliffes of Southwold, and the third to be one of the Churchwardens of Walberswicke for the time being, full power and authority to set out direct, gouerne, order and rule the said Worke and the workmen about the same, and the same workmen & labourers to pay, or cause to be paid, and of their proceedings and successe in the said Worke, to render & make full and perfect account halfe yearly vnto our trusty and welbeloued Subiects Sir Henry Glemham, Sir Iohn Tasburgh, Sir Iohn Wentworth, Sir Iohn Rowse, Sir Thomas Playters, & Sir Robert Brooke Knights, Thomas Kempe, Thomas Beddingfield, & Francis Brewster Esquires, Justices of the Peace within our said County of Suffolke, or to any Three of them, whom We doe hereby require to certifie Vs, or some of our Priuy Counsell vnder their hands and seales euery halfe yeare of the proceedings in the premisses, and of such wants, neglects, or defaults as they shall find in the execution of this our Royall pleasure, for the performance of so good & charitable a Worke. So that expresse mention of the certainty of the premisses, or of any other gift or grant heretofore made by Vs, or by any of our Progenitors to the said Bayliffes and Churchwardens, and in these presents, be not recharsed or declared, or any Act, Statute, Ordinance, prouision or restraine to the contrary hereof, had, made, or ordained or prouided, or any other cause or matter whatsoeuer to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

IN Witnes whereof, We haue caused these our Letters to bee made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witnes our selfe at Westminster, the Three and Twentieth day of January, in the Fifteenth yeare of our Raign of England, France, & Ireland, and of Scotland the Two & Fiftieth.

Steward.

The Iustices, Chiefe Constables &c. to deliuer what is receiued, to the Clarke of the Peace. And the Clarke of the Peace to returne the same the next Terme following into Fishmongers Hall in London, there to be receiued by the Three Townes, to be employed for the repayre of the said Haven.

Nyne Knights and Iustices to take account, and returne the successe to his Majesty, or the Honorable Lords of His priuy Counsell, halfe yeerely.

To our very good Lords, the Lo: Chiefe Iustices of the Courts of Kings Bench and Common Pleas: the Lord Chiefe Baron of the Exchequer, *and the rest of the Iustices of Assize for the seuerall Counties of the Kingdome of England, and Principalitie of Wales: And to all Maiors, Sheriffs, Iustices of Peace, Bayliffs, and other his Maiesties principall Officers within those seuerall Counties.*

AFter our verie hartie Commendations to your Lordships, &c. By the Letters Patents which will be shewed you herewithall, you shall perceiue the iust and waighty Considerations which moued his Maiestie, as well in point of State as otherwise, to recommend by way of Collection, the repaire of the ancient Hauen of the Coast townes of *Dunwich, Southwold.* & *Walberswick* in the Countie of *Suffolke*, to the charitable beneuolence of all his louing Subiects, within this his Maiesties Realme of *England*, and Principalitie of *Wales*. And though the same doth afford sufficient Motiues to induce euery man to dispose himselfe as is fitting, for the aduancement of so worthie a worke: Yet for the more effectuall performance of this his Maiesties Royal pleasure, we haue thought meete to giue this addition of Assistance thereunto, by praying and requiring your Lordships, &c. that in the Sessions in each Countie throughout your Circuits, And in all other publick assemblies, where you the Maiors, Sheriffs, Iustices of peace, Bailiffs &c. shall be present, You doe not onely declare, and make known the tenour and effect of these his Maiesties Letters Patents, but also that you do seriously moue and exhort all his Maiesties louing Subiects to contribute cheerefully and willingly to the effecting of a work so profitable to the Common wealth, & of that consequence for the safetie and defence of that Coast. And so recommending the same to your Lordships, &c. good fauour and care, as a matter of speciall importance, we bid your Lordships and the rest very heartily farewell. From *Whitehall* this 23. of February, 1618.

Lo: Archb. of Canterb. *Earle of* Worcester. *Earle of* Pembrooke. *Earle of* Arundell.
Lo. Bishop of Ely. *Lord* Carow. *Lord* Digby. *Sir* Henry Cary.
Secretary Naunton. *Sir* Edward Coke. *Sir* Thomas Edmunds.

God saue the King.

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